

What is claimed is:

1. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus comprising

excitation light emitting means for projecting  
excitation light onto a target tissue, and

illuminating light emitting means for projecting  
illuminating light onto the target tissue, and

fluorescent-light image obtaining means for obtaining  
a fluorescent-light image formed of the fluorescent-light  
emitted from the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the  
excitation light, and

a normal-image obtaining means for obtaining a  
normal-image formed of the illuminating light reflected from  
the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the illuminating  
light, further comprising

a contact detecting means for detecting that the distal  
end of excitation light emitting means has come into contact  
with the target tissue, and

an excitation light emission controlling means for  
controlling, in response to the detection signal of said  
contact detecting means, the output of the excitation light  
emitted from the excitation light emitting means.

2. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 1, wherein

the excitation light emission control means is a current  
controlling means for controlling the current occurring in the

excitation light source.

3. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes  
5 the emission of the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to stop.

4. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes  
10 the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to be emitted at an intensity below a predetermined value.

5. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus comprising

excitation light emitting means for projecting  
15 excitation light onto a target tissue, and

illuminating light emitting means for projecting  
illuminating light onto the target tissue, and

fluorescent-light image obtaining means for obtaining  
a fluorescent-light image formed of the fluorescent-light  
20 emitted from the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the excitation light, and

a normal-image obtaining means for obtaining a  
normal-image formed of the illuminating light reflected from  
the target tissue upon irradiation thereof by the illuminating  
25 light, further comprising

a distance parameter detecting means for detecting a

parameter correlating the distance between the distal end of  
excitation light emitting means and the target tissue, and

an excitation light emission controlling means for  
controlling, based on the parameter detected by the distance  
parameter detecting means, the output of the excitation light  
emitted from the excitation light emitting means.

6. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 5, wherein

the parameter is based on the light intensity of the  
fluorescent-light image obtained by the fluorescent-light  
image obtaining means.

7. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 6, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire  
image or a predetermined portion of a fluorescent-light image  
obtained by the fluorescent-light image obtaining means.

8. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 5, wherein

the parameter is the light intensity of the normal-image  
obtained by the normal-image obtaining means.

9. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 8, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire  
image or a predetermined portion of a normal-image obtained  
by the normal-image obtaining means.

10. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as

defined in claim 5, further comprising

reference-light emitting means for projecting a  
reference-light onto the target tissue, and

reflected-light image obtaining means for obtaining a  
5 reflected-light image reflected from the target tissue upon  
irradiation thereof by the reference-light, wherein

said parameter is based on the light intensity of the  
reflected-light image obtained by the reflected-light image  
obtaining means.

10 11. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 10, wherein

the parameter is based on the pixel values of the entire  
image or a predetermined portion of a reflected-light image  
obtained by the reflected-light image obtaining means.

15 12. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 5, wherein

the excitation light emission control means is a current  
controlling means for controlling the current occurring in the  
excitation light source.

20 13. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 5, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes  
the emission of the excitation light from the excitation light  
emitting means to stop.

25 14. A fluorescent-light image obtaining apparatus as  
defined in claim 5, wherein

said excitation light emission controlling means causes the excitation light from the excitation light emitting means to be emitted at an intensity below a predetermined value.